Florida International University  
Department of Earth and Environment

ISC 1056: First Year Seminar in Earth and Environment  
Spring 2020, Monday, 4:00-4:50 PM, PC 214

Instructor  
Professor Dean Whitman  
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Office Hours: MW: 1:30-3:30 PM. Other meeting times available by arrangement. Appointments are recommended in all cases.

Description:  
A weekly seminar course meant for freshmen or 1st year transfer students in the Geoscience, Environmental Studies, and Earth Science programs. In this course, you will receive advisement about major requirements and preparatory coursework, special presentations by faculty, tours of department facilities and labs and information on FIU library and information resources.

Prerequisites:  
Enrollment in the Geoscience B.S., Earth Science B.A., Environmental Studies B.S. majors or interest in switching to one of those majors. If you are in the Sustainability and the Environment BA program, you should be in a different course, IDS 1273, First Year Seminar in Sustainability.

Course Learning Objectives/Outcomes. In this course:
- You will learn skills for success at FIU and particular in the majors in the Department.
- You will learn the requirements for your major and plot out your 2/4 year course plan.
- You will learn how to best utilize the resources available to Department students to maximize your strategy for success.
- You will gain a better understanding of what the faculty in the department do.
- You will learn more about the natural environment in southern Florida
- You will start planning your future, learn about careers in your discipline and learn to prepare your resume.

Course Requirements and Grading:  
Pass/Fail based on attendance (50%), and completion of assignments/participation in class activities (50%). A total aggregate score of less than 60% may result in an F in this course. You are expected to attend every week and to complete all assignments. If you know that you will be absent from a particular class, you should email me in advance so that I can give you any needed materials and instructions.

We will be using the FIU Check-In system to record attendance. FIU Check-In captures classroom attendance by having students quickly scan a QR code conveniently located in the classroom before class starts.

Getting started with FIU Check-In is easy:
1. Review the student guide and download the free FIU Check-In app  
   - Google Play for Android
   - App Store for iOS
2. When you enter the classroom, mark yourself present by scanning the QR code.
You are encouraged attend our Earth and Environment Graduate Seminars, **Fridays 3-4:15 in WC 130** during the semester. The speakers and topics are posted on the Earth & Environment webpage: [http://earthenvironment.fiu.edu](http://earthenvironment.fiu.edu).

**Canvas**
A course page will be maintained on Canvas. This page will contain this syllabus, copies of exercises, links, and announcements for the course. To access this resource, go to [https://canvas.fiu.edu/](https://canvas.fiu.edu/) and login. Select the **ISC1056 U01 1201** tile.
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<th>Week</th>
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| 1    | Jan 6  | Introduction. Review of our Undergraduate Programs  
Review of FIU policies and procedures  
Distribution of advising sheets.  
**Short Term Tuition Loan Applications available**  
**Assignment 1:** Survey: why did you pick your major? |
|      | Jan 13 | Presentation from the CASE academic advisors  
**Assignment 2:** Get your Panther Degree Audit  
Last day add courses, to drop courses without financial liability  
Spring 2020 Tuition payments due |
|      | Mar 30 | Ms. Patricia Pereira-Pujol, Information Services Librarian for Science & Engineering  
**Assignment 5:** Upload your Revised plan of study to Canvas |
| 2    | Jan 14 | Assignment 1: Survey: why did you pick your major? |
|      | Jan 14 | Assignment 2: Get your Panther Degree Audit  
Last day add courses, to drop courses without financial liability  
Spring 2020 Tuition payments due |
| 3    | Jan 20 | No Class. ML King Birthday Holiday, |
| 4    | Jan 27 | Future Course Scheduling  
Plotting out your 2/4 year academic program and entering it into the Panthersoft academic planner.  
**Assignment 3:** Upload your tentative plan of study to Canvas  
Last day to withdraw from the University with a 25% refund |
| 5    | Feb 2  | Student clubs in the Department  
Meet the Senior Students, Student (peer) Mentors |
| 6    | Feb 10 | Meet the Faculty or lab Tour |
| 7    | Feb 17 | Tour of the FIU organic Garden and Nature Preserve.  
**Please arrive on time.** |
| 8    | Feb 24 | **Spring Break, No Class** |
| 9    | Mar 2  | Meet the Faculty or lab Tour |
| 10   | Mar 9  | Meet the Faculty or lab Tour |
| 11   | Mar 16 | Meet the Faculty or lab Tour  
**Class schedule available for Summer and Fall 2020 terms**  
**Last day to drop classes with a DR grade or withdraw with WI grade** |
| 12   | Mar 23 | Registration Prep: Courses offered in Summer and Fall 2020.  
**Assignment 4:** When is your Registration Appointment? |
| 13   | Mar 30 | Ms. Patricia Pereira-Pujol, Information Services Librarian for Science & Engineering  
**Assignment 5:** Upload your Revised plan of study to Canvas |
| 14   | Apr 6  | Mr Darren Greggory Thinking about careers and skills. Resume and cover letter writing Learning Assistant Program, Internships, etc. |
| 15   | Apr 13 | What comes after your Bachelor’s degree? Applying for graduate school. Applying for a job.  
Setting up a LinkedIn Account |